GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3451
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2003
PRODUCTION OF FILMS DEPICTING VIOLENCE AND INDECENCY
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of films depicting violence and indecency has increased to a great deal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to save the posterity from the ill effects of showing such films?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b) : The thematic variations in films is a continuous affair and trends are based on new films gaining success at the box office.

(c) : Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) certifies films in terms of the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines issued thereunder. The guidelines, inter alia, ask CBFC to ensure that:

1. Scenes showing involvement of children in violence or as victims or as perpetrators or as forced witness to violence, or showing children as being subjected to any form of child abuse are not presented needlessly;

2. Pointless or avoidable scenes of violence, cruelty and horror, scenes of violence primarily intended to provide entertainment and such scenes as may have the effect of desensitizing or dehumanizing people are not shown;

3. Scenes degrading or denigrating women in any manner are not presented.

4. Human sensibilities are not offended by obscenity, vulgarity or depravity It has also been stipulated in the guidelines that while certifying films for unrestricted public exhibition, the Board shall ensure that the film is suitable for family viewing, that is to say, the film should be such that all the members of the family including children can view it together.

If the Board, having regard to the nature, content and theme of the film, is of the opinion that it is necessary to caution the parents/guardian to consider as to whether any child below the age of 12 years may be allowed to see such a film, the film should be certified for unrestricted public showing with an endorsement to that effect.

It has been informed by CBFC that the guidelines are adhered to while certifying the films.